

# Combined Arms Center (CAC) Commander's Research Top Priority List -- 2005-2006

Approved by CG: 8 August 2005

Annually, the CAC Commander issues a priority research topic list as a general guide to CGSC/SAMS students as well as other CAC agencies conducting professional research or writing for professional publication. In addition, the CAC Commander has directed that *Military Review* use the annual list as a guide to establish priorities for evaluating the relevance of manuscripts submitted for consideration of CAC-sponsored publication during each year.

The approved list includes topics specified by the CAC Commander himself as well as those he approves based on recommendations from the CAC Senior Editorial Board. This board was organized in 2004 with the specific charter to advise the Commander on the efficient management and guidance of CAC-directed research.

Below is the list of research topics identified as being of greatest interest to CAC for the school year 2005-2006. It was approved by the CAC Commander on 8 August 2005. Topics vary in their level of specificity. However, topics are for the most part fairly broad and allow for considerable latitude in variety of subtopics that deserve research and publication of findings in support of the Army's goals and the current war on terrorism:

## CAC COMMANDER'S PRIORITY TOPICS FOR GUIDED RESEARCH

1 – Transition from Combat Operations to Post-Combat Operations/Stability Operations.

- Troop density in stability operations
- Continuing utility of phasing construct for designing campaigns?

2 – Cultural Awareness in U.S. Military: How Shortfalls in Past Conflicts Can Be Attributed to Lack of Cross-Cultural Capabilities.

- Cultural awareness and the military: US experience.
- Cultural awareness and the military: foreign experience (seeking foreign officer insight into the question, "Why do foreigners love Americans, but hate America?").

3 – Case Studies of SOF-Conventional Force Integration.

4 – Intel Operations in Urban Operations.

- Plausibility of templating threats common or unique to an urban operational environment.

– Need for “Urban IPB” – examination of echelonment of intelligence functions: Higher headquarters require more general intel for planning at operational level as opposed to more detailed specific detail required immediately at the tactical level.

– At what echelon does a unit not have situational awareness and why?

5 – Defining Victory in the Aftermath of a Successful Campaign: Convincing the Enemy to Accept Defeat.

6 – The Joint Task Force in Contingency Operations.

7 – Case Studies: Training Indigenous Forces – Successes and Failures.

8 – Interagency Operations – How Can We “Operationalize” the Strategic- Level Work Being Done for the Reconstruction and Support Office?

9 – Tactical/Operational Pauses: In the “See First, Act, Finish Decisively” Construct, What Is the Impact on Operations If There Are Long Pauses? Examine Impact on Both Enemy and Friendly Operations.

10 – Ethical Challenges in Counterinsurgency Warfare.

11 – Civil Affairs in Counterinsurgency Warfare.

12 – Continuing Russian Lessons Learned in Chechnya.

13 – Key Issues in Central Asian Security.

14 – Evolving Missions with Emphasis on Stability and Reconstruction Operations, and the Subsequent Impacts on US Force Structure from the Perspective of Manning, Equipping, Training, and Resourcing.

15 – Impact of C4ISR and Digitization on the Joint Force Ability to Effectively Conduct the Types of Operations Becoming More Prevalent in Theaters such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

– Impact of Digital Information Systems on the C3 of Joint Forces During Operations in Theaters such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

– Impact of Digital Information Systems on Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance During Operations in Theaters such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

16 – Organizing the UEy, UEx, and UA Staffs for Operations in a Stability and Reconstruction Operations Environment.

17 – The Role of Political Culture in Counterinsurgency Warfare.

18 – How US Army Experiences Since 1980 Shape the Future.

19 – GWOT Experiences of CGSC Classes (by Class).

20 –Information Operations Assessments and Actions in the Battle Space Prior to the Commencement of Military Operations

- Focus and resourcing. Characteristically, little has been done to prepare the inhabitants / populace for the consequences of a conflict. How might we do this better?

- Examine IO manning, mission focus, and integration earlier in the fight in anticipation of a post-war environment.

21 – Regional Cultural Awareness.

- Iranian.

- Syrian.

22 – Tanks in Urban Warfare.

23 – Influence of Military Pundits on Political and Military Decision Making.

24 – Case Studies: Battles for Fallujah.

25 –Reconnaissance Units – Means and Ends: Too Light for Contemporary Environment? Not Used?

26 –Ground Based Precision Fires Versus Close Air Support: Is the Army Moving too Quickly to Replace Ground Artillery?

27 – Comparing, Contrasting, and Employing Post-War Stabilization/Insurgency Scenario Lessons from Constabulary Models.

28 – China’s RMA: Chinese IW Developments in 2004-2005.

29 – Operation Anaconda: America’s First Conventional Battle in Afghanistan.

30 – Effects-Based Approach in a Cross-Cultural Environment.

31 – Cultural Considerations within IO.

32 – Logistical Challenges to Supporting Rapid Forward Movements.

33 – Logistics Management: Supplying Critical Items to Tactical Units -- Sustaining Campaigns.

34 – Higher Echelon Staffs: Roles, Functions, Organization, Size and Utility above BCT – Conversion to Lead HQs in JIM Environment.

35 – Tactical Intelligence – Is there a Continuing Need to Conduct Combat Operations for Intelligence Purposes?

36 – Trend Analysis for Use of Military Contractors in the Battle Space.